

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06397 140846Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 /013 W
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R 140720Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1027

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 6397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PK, US

SUBJ: U.S. 1975 K-2 EXPEDITION

REF: STATE 119690

1. U.S. MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION LED BY JAMES WHITTAKER HAS FAILED IN ITS ATTEMPT TO CLIMB K-2. EMBASSY JULY 14 RECEIVED CABLE FROM WHITTAKER SETTING FORTH REASONS FOR FAILURE. ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS OF EXPEDITION ARE HEALTHY.

2. AS PER REFTEL, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS TEXT OF CABLE TO SENATOR JACKSON'S OFFICE. BEGIN TEXT:
THE 1975 K-2 EXPEDITIONS FAILED IN ITS ATTEMPT TO REACH THE SUMMIT OF THE WORLD'S SECOND HIGHEST MOUNTAIN. THE EXPEDITION SUFFERED SERIOUS DELAYS REACHING BASE CAMP AS A RESULT OF STRIKES AND BAD WEATHER. ON THE VERY DIFFICULT MOUNTAIN ROUTE, SEVERE STORMS HALTED THE TEAM'S PROGRESS FOR OVER 20 DAYS. TIME HAS RUN OUT. ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE HEALTHY. ONE HIGH ALTITUDE PORTER IS SERIOUSLY ILL AND HAS BEEN CARRIED DOWN TO 15,000 FEET FOR HELICOPTER EVACUATION. THE TEAM WILL LEAVE BASE CAMP ON JULY 15TH AND EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN SKARDU ABOUT JULY 28TH, JAMES WHITTAKER 1975 K-2 EXPEDITION
END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY HAS RELEASED SUBSTANCE OF CABLE TO REUTERS AND UPI WIRE SERVICES AND TO LOCAL PRESS. AS WAYNE JACOBI OF THE SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER HAS BEEN INTEREST IN EXPEDITION, THE SENATOR'S OFFICE MAY WANT TO ENSURE
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06397 140846Z

THAT HE IS INFORMED. SENATOR JACKSON INTERESTED PARTY.

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